

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated January 23, 2008 has been reviewed and carefully considered. In this response, claims 1-7, 12, 13, 19-22, and 24 have been amended and claim 11 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendments to the claims 1-7, 12, 13, 19-22, and 24 and the cancellation of claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer is respectfully requested. Thus, claims 1-10 and 12-24 are currently pending. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. The Allowability of Claims 7, 10, 11, and 16

Applicants note with appreciation the indication on page 7 of the Office Action that claims 7, 10, 11, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1, 19, and 22 have been amended in this manner, and thus should now be allowable. Acknowledgement of same is respectfully requested.

II. The Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12-15, and 17-24

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12-15, and 17-24 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,216,347 to Harrison *et al* ("Harrison"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Regarding claims 1, 19, and 22, the Examiner asserts that Harrison discloses the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in order to forward the present application toward allowance, Applicants have amended claims 1, 19, and 22 to more

specifically define the claimed invention, and specifically those features recited in the allowable claim 11, as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the anticipation rejection of claims 1, 19, and 22 is rendered moot in view of claim amendments to claims 1, 19, and 22. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 19, and 22 are allowable over Harrison.

Regarding claims 2-6, 8, 9, 12-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, and 24, these claims are dependent upon independent claims 1, 19, and 22. Thus, since independent claims 1, 19, and 22 should be allowable as discussed above, claims 2-6, 8, 9, 12-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, and 24 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1, 19, and 22. Moreover, these claims recite additional features which are not disclosed by the cited reference.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned anticipation rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12-15, and 17-24 be withdrawn and reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

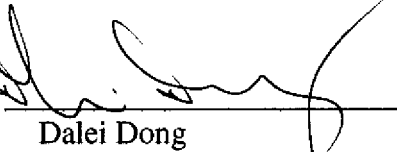
Since the cited references, taken either singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the combinations set forth in the pending claims, and further fail to provide any motivation or suggestion of the desirability of modifying the structures or methods to arrive at the claimed combinations, Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejections, allow the pending claims and pass the application to issue.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 or §1.117 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

By: 
Dalei Dong
Registration No. 60,363

For: Brian M. Buroker
Registration No. 39,125

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Hunton & Williams, LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006-1109
Telephone: (202) 955-1500
Facsimile: (202) 778-2201